

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims and their status. Please cancel claims 1-14, 16, 17 and 19, and amend the remaining claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method for eliminating air pockets and billowing when installing an empty flexible trash can liner in a trash receptacle and drawing the empty liner tight against the interior surfaces of the receptacle in a full open position, comprising the steps of:

providing a trash receptacle having an outer base member with a bottom-wall end adapted to be supported on a support surface and a peripheral side wall extending upwardly therefrom circumscribing a central lower chamber and terminating in an open top end, an inner receptacle movably disposed in said outer base member having a bottom wall and a peripheral side wall extending upwardly therefrom circumscribing an upper chamber and terminating in an open top end having a rim[[.]], and one-way valve means disposed between said upper chamber and said lower chamber for conducting air from said upper chamber;

placing an empty flexible trash can liner in said ~~central~~ upper chamber and fitting its open end over said rim; and

moving said inner receptacle relative to said outer base member to increase the volume of said lower chamber relative to the volume of said upper chamber to extracting extract air trapped between exterior surfaces of the empty liner and interior surfaces of said central upper chamber [[to]] and create a vacuum therebetween sufficient to eliminate air pockets and billowing and draw the empty liner against said interior surfaces in a full open position.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The A method according to claim 16, wherein for eliminating air pockets and billowing when installing an empty flexible trash can liner in a trash receptacle and drawing the empty liner tight against the interior surfaces of the receptacle in a full open position, comprising the steps of:

providing a trash receptacle having an outer base member with a bottom end adapted to be supported on a support surface and a perimeter side wall extending upwardly therefrom circumscribing a lower chamber terminating in an open top end, and an inner receptacle having a bottom wall and a peripheral side wall extending upwardly therefrom circumscribing an upper chamber and terminating in an open top end having a rim, and one-way valve means disposed between said upper chamber and said lower chamber for conducting air from said upper chamber;

said inner receptacle ~~[[is]]~~ slidably disposed in telescoping relation in ~~[[an]]~~ said outer base member ~~having a bottom wall adapted to be supported on a support surface and a perimeter side wall extending upwardly therefrom circumscribing a second chamber terminating in an open top end, said receptacle and movable in said base member between a lower position to reduce the volume of said second lower chamber and an upper position to increase the volume of said second lower chamber;~~

~~said receptacle central chamber is in fluid communication with said base member second chamber through one way valve means that closes as said receptacle is moved to its lower position and opens as said receptacle is moved to its upper position; and~~

placing an empty flexible trash can liner in said inner receptacle upper chamber and fitting its open end over said rim; and

~~said step of reducing the pressure of air comprises moving said inner receptacle to its lower position to decrease the volume of said second base member lower chamber and close said valve means to prevent passage of air from said second base member lower chamber into the area between the exterior surface of the empty liner and the interior surfaces of said central upper chamber, and~~

moving said inner receptacle from its lower position to its upper position to increase the volume of said ~~second~~ lower chamber and open said valve means such that the increasing volume of said ~~central~~ lower chamber reduces the pressure ~~therein and the pressure~~ of air trapped between the exterior ~~surface~~ surfaces of the empty liner and the interior surfaces of said ~~central~~ upper chamber sufficiently lower than the pressure of ambient air inside the empty liner ~~sufficient~~ to eliminate air pockets and draw the empty liner against said ~~central~~ upper chamber interior surfaces.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein

said inner receptacle side wall and said outer base member side wall are sized and shaped to define a small annulus or gap between the exterior surfaces of said inner receptacle and the interior surfaces of said outer base member; and

said step of moving said receptacle to its lower position expels air from said ~~second~~ base member lower chamber to the atmosphere through said annulus or gap.

Please add the following new claims:

21. (new) A method for eliminating air pockets and billowing when installing an empty flexible trash can liner in a trash receptacle and drawing the empty liner tight against the interior surfaces of the receptacle in a full open position, comprising the steps of:

providing a trash receptacle having a bottom end adapted to be supported on a support surface and a peripheral side wall extending upwardly therefrom circumscribing a central chamber and terminating in an open top end having a rim;

placing an empty flexible trash can liner in said central chamber and fitting its open end over said rim; and

increasing the volume of said central chamber after said empty liner is placed therein to reduce the pressure of air trapped between exterior surfaces of the empty liner and interior surfaces of said central chamber sufficiently lower than ambient air inside the empty liner to eliminate air pockets and draw the empty liner against said chamber interior surfaces.

22. (new) A method for eliminating air pockets and billowing when installing an empty flexible trash can liner in a trash receptacle and drawing the empty liner tight against the interior surfaces of the receptacle in a full open position, comprising the steps of:

providing a trash receptacle having a bottom end adapted to be supported on a support surface and a perimeter side wall extending upwardly therefrom circumscribing a central chamber terminating in an open top end having a rim, and a vertically movable member having an outer periphery slidably disposed in said central chamber for vertical movement relative thereto, said vertically movable member dividing said central chamber into an upper chamber and a lower chamber and movable between an upper position and a lower position;

placing an empty flexible trash can liner in said upper chamber and fitting its open end over said receptacle rim; and

moving said vertically movable member to a lower position to increase the volume of said upper chamber such that the increasing volume of said upper chamber reduces the pressure of air trapped between exterior surfaces of the empty liner and interior surfaces of said upper chamber sufficiently lower than the pressure of ambient air inside the empty liner to eliminate air pockets and draw the empty liner against said upper chamber interior surfaces.